

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, September 22, 2009

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PM40069240 R10645

Early start

For curling ice installation

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Autumn's here

After a busy summer

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**Forts visitation
up in August**

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Regional water system a benefit

By VICKI BROOKER

Review Staff

A regional water system with a pipeline that would link Elk Point to St. Paul's water treatment plant was seen as a benefit to both town and county residents when Mayor Parrish Tung asked each person present at last Wednesday's open house for their comments on the options for the community's future water supply.

Tung led the group through a power point presentation on the St. Paul Regional Water Feasibility Study jointly commissioned by the Town of Elk Point and the County and Town of St. Paul. The study inventories and assesses existing facilities, peak water use, treated and raw water storage and outlines options for supply of water from St. Paul to Ashmont, Mallaig, Lottie Lake and Elk Point, as well as options that would be necessary in each community if water is not supplied by pipeline.

"We are still looking at all the options," Tung said, noting that Elk Point's water treatment plant has been scheduled for an upgrade to meet incoming regulations, "and we have already applied for two extensions on the deadline for that." It would cost \$1 million to upgrade the plant and \$5 million to increase its capacity, he noted, and the government would only fund the upgrade portion.

The average Elk Point household uses between 250 and 300 cubic metres of water per year, and the town has a 1,453 cubic metre treated water storage capacity. On a peak day, "we can use 1,234 cubic metres. Water can go pretty fast," Tung said. Demand is projected to increase in the future as population climbs, even if that growth is at a slow pace.

"What does Elk Point need?" he asked. "The plant can treat the water, but Alberta Environment requires it to be upgraded, and our raw water storage capacity is inadequate. Our treated water capacity is not a problem now, but it could be by 2013 or 2018.

"The council before us did really good planning," he noted. The study contains seven proposals, "but only two concern us," Tung said.

(Continued on Page 2)



Vicki Brooker photo

Northern Lights Library System's Information Technologies manager James MacDonald gives the new NLLS mascot, the Library Bear, a big hug at Friday night's session of Northern Lights' well-attended 17th annual conference, "Libraries: A Place to Grow." See conference coverage, Page 5.

Signage bylaw under town council's scrutiny

By VICKI BROOKER

Review Staff

Elk Point town council is planning an overhaul of the section of its land use bylaw that deals with signage.

"The current signage doesn't fit our bylaw," Mayor Parrish Tung told council. "We have to redraw the bylaw before any more signage along the highway can be permitted. We have to decide where signage will be located, what the size and spacing will be, and any restrictions."

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko agreed, saying, "I strongly urge the town to start fresh, and ignore what's on the books."

Council had planned to spend last

Sunday going over the bylaw, but after more discussion, asked town manager Myron Goyan to prepare a new draft bylaw, which they will go over next Monday prior to the regular council meeting.

Two businesses who had hoped to install signs will be informed that no decision can be made until the new bylaw is in place.

Sea Cans

The use of sea cans as storage units was back on the council table for more discussion, with council divided on whether these should be allowed only in the industrial area, or, with a provision for discretionary uses in other areas with stringent regulations and license fees. The debate came down to a recorded vote on the first reading

of a bylaw permitting use of sea cans only in the industrial area, with Coun. Dick Millar, Coun. Mark Gormley and Mayor Tung in favour and Coun. Bernice Capjack and Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich opposed.

Potential development

A local couple visited council to get clarification on the zoning required for construction of a four-plex. The property they have in mind is currently zoned R2, which is classified as Medium Density, while R3, high density, is required for a four-plex.

EcoCentre

Bezpalko reported briefly on the progress with EcoCentre construction, and said he feels the structure "will be as unique as St. Paul's landing pad," with its wind tur-

bine and solar panels.

"It will give us the brand we're looking for, and I think it will pay off down the road."

Fire Hall

Council approved the purchase of a pressure water system for the wash bay, as well as an air compressor unit and SCRA air compressor for the fire hall.

Fluoride

The addition of fluoride to Elk Point's treated water supply is to be discontinued. Many communities are doing this, because the need for additional fluoride has declined in recent years, due to healthier diets containing alternate sources of the cavity-preventing element.



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Victim's name released in fatal ATV collision

By CST. J. SPAANS

Elk Point RCMP

On Sept. 12 at approximately 6:20 p.m., Elk Point RCMP responded to a single vehicle collision involving an off-highway vehicle (ATV) near the community of

Heinsburg. At the time of the collision, the ATV was being operated by an adult male with a child passenger. The six-year-old male child was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigation into the matter is ongoing. The victim has been identified as Hayden Shadlock of Red Deer, AB. The victim was wearing a helmet at the time of the collision.

Alcohol-related collision

On Sept. 9 at approximately 8:30 p.m., Elk Point RCMP, EMS and Fire Department responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 41 approximately five km. south of Elk Point. A northbound Toyota Celica made a left turn in front of a southbound Jeep Rubicon. The Jeep struck the passenger side of the Toyota at highway speeds and both vehicles came to rest in opposite ditches. The Toyota carried one occupant and the Jeep carried four. All involved occupants were transported to hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Investigation into this matter is ongoing. Alcohol is believed to have been a contributing factor in this collision.

Water system

(Continued from Front Page)

One option for Elk Point would be "for us to do our water on our own," with the treatment plant upgrade and increased raw water storage, or "let St. Paul treat the water and pipe it to here. We would join the regional water system and the government would pay 90 per cent. Our share would be \$730,000, and we wouldn't have to treat the water, just add a bit of chlorine. Both options are still viable."

The upgrade and increased capacity "still wouldn't give us a 24/7 water supply," he noted, "and we would have to double our raw water capacity. We don't really have the land for that."

Tung said the government is "treating the need for our upgrade as a priority. They want us to have a secure water supply. The funding for the regional water system would be through Water For Life, and a lot of regions are going for it. The region south of us has been approved for \$98 million."

The recommendation of the independent engineers who compiled the report "is the best practice for the

community's benefit," Tung said.

He noted that St. Paul, as suppliers of water, "cannot charge a different rate to different users. What they charge a user in St. Paul, we will pay the same."

Charts outlining the yearly payment on the town's portion of the cost of the regional pipeline show Elk Point paying \$46,000 per year, equal to one half mill if paid through taxes, and a total borrowing cost over 25 years of \$438,000. The other option, with borrowing \$5 million, would cost \$105,820 per year for the first 10 years and \$211,239 per year for the remaining 15 years, for a total borrowing cost of \$3.6 million. This cost assumes that another treatment plant upgrade would be needed 10 years from now.

"The initial \$105,000 is one mill for the first 10 years, and it doubles for the next ten," Tung noted.

Tung indicated that the county is "willing to tie in and pay for part. It would benefit the whole region." He told the county residents that were present, "if you feel strongly about it, tell your councillors."

Both town and county residents present felt the regional system would be the best option, calling it "a reasonably cheap investment for everyone," stating that "council has no other choice," and noting that, "it's a shame to give up the water we have now, but it makes sense."

Coun. Bernice Capjack agreed that, "It's the only way to go," while Coun. Mark Gormley remarked on the small attendance at the open house and said, "I hope the people in this room spread the word."

'10' the word for 2010

By JENNIFER VAN DER HOEK
Elk Point Fair Board

It's never too early to start planning your entries for the Elk Point and District Agricultural Society's Annual Craft and Horticulture Fair, which will take place Aug. 14 and 15, 2010.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Diane Dewan photo

Contest winners

Bernice Capjack from the Grandparents' Day planning committee congratulated the students who won \$25.00 each for the Grandparents Day Coloring Contest: Grade 2 - Brianna Deschamps, Grade 3 - Garrett Kinashuk, Grade 4 - Tristan Feero, Grade 5 - Brodin Ference, Grade 6 - Spencer Young and (not shown) Grade 1 - Cynthia James.

Early start for curling ice

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Curling Club has set the goal of an earlier start for this year's curling season, and is currently looking for volunteers to help meet the goal.

The ice plant will be turned on within the next week, and Curtis Porcina hopes to have a large group of volunteers on hand next Monday, Sept. 28, starting at 6 p.m. with pizza for the workers, to smooth out the sand ready for flooding.

Once the sand is ready and the plant is turned on, one or two people will be needed to water the rink twice or three times a day until there is sufficient ice to put the rings and lines in place. "We'll need six or eight or 10 people to do that," he says. Then comes more flooding.

"This is when it will take lots of floods," Porcina says. "We can do three floods a day, and it takes about an hour and a half for two people to do a flood."

Mayor Parrish Tung says some of the Public Works staff is willing to assist with flooding, to speed up the process. The workers attended an ice-making course last year and later assisted with installing the ice in the A. G. Ross Arena.

"The quickest we ever put the curling rink ice in was 10 days," Porcina adds.

Getting the ice ready by mid-October is seen as one way to increase the number of curlers using the facility.

"If we have no curlers, we have no curling rink," Porcina says.

A recent brainstorming session brought forth ideas to increase use of the facility. The curling club has seen dwindling use in recent years, a trend that the club would like to see reversed.

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- One \$500.00 bursary to an active member of Branch #100, or their child or grandchild.
- Two \$500.00 bursaries to veterans, a veteran's child or grandchild who were or are currently residents in the St. Paul / Myrnam / Elk Point Poppy Campaign areas.

Applications for bursaries must include proof of enrollment in a full program and an acceptance letter from the education institution, as well as proof of eligibility.

**Applications must be received by the
Branch no later than October 23, 2009.**

Chamber in fundraising mode

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

With updated budgets for completing the Elk Point Tourist Information EcoCentre in hand, members of the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce spent much of their Sept. 16 meeting discussing their upcoming fundraising initiatives.

At least two raffles, one short term, to be held in conjunction with Extravaganza 2009, and one longer term, are in the works, with prizes to be announced as soon as they have been confirmed. The chamber also is planning two evenings of entertain-

ment in the new year. One of these will be a return visit to Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre by Danny Hooper in April, this time accompanied by his band.

Other fundraising ideas

include the sale of souvenirs in the EcoCentre. Some research has already been done into items that would entice visitors to the EcoCentre to take home a memento of Elk Point.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009
(Free Shuttle Bus Service - 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

8 - 11:30 a.m. **Registrations for Pumpkin, Squash, Watermelon and Long Gourds** (Complex Arena)

9 a.m. **Farmer's Market** (Complex Grounds/School)

9 a.m. **Food Fair with live music by "Northern Kings"** (Complex Hall)

9 a.m. **Entertainment by "Christine Horne"** (Complex Arena)

10 a.m. **Studio 28 - Show and Sale of Arts & Crafts** (National Hall)

11:45 a.m. **Official Weigh-Off begins - "MC Danny Hooper"** (Complex Arena)

2 p.m. **Thrashing Bee**

3 p.m. **Pumpkin Auction**

12 - 3 p.m. **Annual Auto Show & Shine** (Downtown)

4 p.m. **Beer Gardens/Roast Pork Supper** (Curling Rink)

5 p.m. **Giant Pumpkin Drop**

8:30 p.m. **Old Time Country Dance** (White Earth Community Hall)

Other Activities include:
Petting Zoo, Balloon Art, Face Painting, Pumpkin Decorating, Midway, Museum, Seniors' Garage Sale

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009
(Weather Permitting)

Pumpkin Classic Golf Tournament
at 12 Noon at the Smoky Lake Golf Course



Ask a SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Do you still plan on building a new central office?

Even though the Alberta government clawed back \$600,000 of our reserves earmarked for the construction of a new administration office for St. Paul Education, the Board of Trustees remains committed to the project. Our project tenders closed on the same day as the Minister of Education called to advise that our reserves would be reduced as part of the effort to lessen the provincial deficit. Our Board, as well as our neighbouring Boards, continue to express concerns over the inequity of this clawback.

The reasons for staying on course with the construction remain the same. Since five boards amalgamated into one back in 1995, the challenges of space and efficiency still exist. The project has already been postponed twice and costs have more than doubled during that time. It is feared that delaying the project further will result in additional cost increases. Our division has been saving up for a new administrative office for the past 14 years and now is the ideal time to build, due to the economic downturn. If we do not build now, the money we have already invested into the project will be wasted and due to rising costs we will likely never have this opportunity again. We will also be using underutilized floor space at the Regional High School and adding on about 60 per cent new construction. In terms of budgetary setbacks, we have also reviewed other financing options to weather any shortfalls in our construction budget.

As with the original decision to construct a new administrative building, at no time have we changed our commitment to student learning. In fact, most years resources have been transferred from other areas into instruction to maintain and improve student learning. School construction projects are funded by the province, whereas non-school projects, like the Division office, must be funded locally through the use of our administrative funds. Administration expenses are capped at 5.5% of our budget. It is expected that budget challenges will be with us until natural gas prices rebound however the Board is clear that student learning will remain the priority even during fiscal restraint. As most of our budget is dedicated to salaries, Boards across Alberta are dreading the belt tightening that is upon us, but we are also aware that we must balance short and long term needs. As a matter of perspective, over a twenty-five year period, the annual amortized cost of the building project is estimated to be less than 0.50% of the Division's annual budget.

This monthly series is brought to you by the Board of Trustees from St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1. If you have a question for us, please visit our website at www.stpauleducation.ab.ca or phone your local trustee (780 prefix): Darrell Younghans 943-2460; Deb Pederson 366-2533; Ron Rudkowsky 367-2243; Rhonda Lafrance 645-7125; Don Padlesky 645-5659; Steve Upham 726-2195; Maureen Miller 645-3105.



EDITORIAL

A productive summer

It's difficult to remember a more productive summer than the one just completed.

The past three months have been a beehive of non-stop activity on five major building projects, as Elk Point's southern skyline saw the huge new fire hall rise at its west end and an updated replica of the long-lost 1927 train station rise at the end of Main Street.

At the north end of town, a beautiful new town sign was put in place to welcome those driving into our community. A block further south, construction and renovation is well underway on improvements to the Northern Lights Library System headquarters, and another block south and across the highway, the first phase of a much needed daycare centre is nearing completion.

Not all the progress is visible at this time. Recreation director Valerie Lazicki has gathered a large band of supporters to plan and bring to reality a water splash park for the community's youngsters, Mayor Parrish Tung and town council have presented the alternatives for a secure, 24/7 future water supply, and Bob Bezpalko and the economic development committee received public input into proposed walking trails.

Here's hoping that autumn brings progress as well.

WAY BACK WHEN...

By-election, big bear, bandshell

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND THE ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 22 IN...

1984

Four hats were in the ring for an Oct. 3 by-election, with Alvina Schuhmacher, Walter Lesyk, Stan Dmytrash and Gordon Fraser vying for the seats left vacant by the retirement of Philomena Mackenzie and Gordon McCuaig. The chamber of commerce found a temporary home at the Pioneer Circle Hall while renovations were underway at the Empress Restaurant.

1989

Elk Point and District Agricultural Society received a \$25,000 grant from the Alberta Lottery Fund, which would be used to purchase a new Zamboni and to pay down the society's capital debt. The Town of Elk Point and the Elk Point Tourism Action Committee pledged their help to the Elk Point Historical Society in the first step to planning the 1992 Bicentennial of Fort George and Buckingham House.

1994

Peggy Maas, Susan MacKinnon and Aaron Jurak were the top fundraisers from among 34 participants at the Terry Fox Run. A public meeting hosted by the A, G, Ross Arena Operating Committee saw lots of discussion regarding the possibility of purchasing the heavily used facility from the Agricultural Society.

1999

The RCMP Safety Bear was a big hit with the youngest visitors at Information Night. Numerous ideas for the beautification of downtown Elk Point were put forth by Elk Point Chamber of Commerce members, one for a flagpole and benches at the end of Main Street, flanked by an improved tourist information centre and a band shell.

2004

Elk Point's new animal control bylaw put the bite on pet owners, making it mandatory to license both cats and dogs within town limits and limiting the population to three dogs, three cats or a combination of four cats and dogs per residential property. Heinsburg Community School students kept Terry Fox's dream alive with their annual run, which has been part of the school's program since 1990.



GUEST COLUMN

First day of fall

Yes, it is official. Today, Sept. 22 is the first day of fall. In fact, at 5:18 p.m. EDT, it will be the precise moment when fall arrives for the northern hemisphere. Autumn begins with the September Equinox. The astronomical start of the fall season is marked by the positions of earth and the sun. On the equinox, the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west. This is true for both the fall and spring equinoxes. So on two days of the year you can find the exact cardinal directions of East and West by using the sun. The ancients did this when they set up their calendars at Stonehenge and the Mayan pyramid, among others.



deanna
EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

The autumnal equinox for the northern hemisphere is the vernal equinox for the southern hemisphere. Another way to say this is that when fall begins for the northern hemisphere, spring begins for the southern hemisphere. Keeping this in mind can help you remember why we have seasons. If part of the globe has opposite seasons than the other half, then the reasons for the season is NOT because of how close or far away we are from the sun. The reason is related to the tilt of the Earth on its axis. As the north pole begins to tilt away from the sun, cooler weather comes to the northern hemisphere because the sun is no longer giving its direct rays to this part of Earth. In winter when the North Pole is tilted its farthest away from the sun, we have the least amount of daylight hours and the coldest weather.

You can even notice the angle of the sun and how it never gets as high above the horizon.

Although it seems logical that equinox would refer to day and night being equal on these two days of the year, this is not the case. In the Northern Hemisphere on the fall equinox, daylight hours will still be longer than nighttime by about seven to 10 minutes. A couple days after the equinox, day and night are finally equal.

Regardless of being official, there's a different feeling in the air these days: the mornings are crisp and the nights nippy. The trees in the yard are preparing for a change. Leaves on the maples are tinged with yellow. Red is beginning to show on the dogwoods, reminding us of the scarlet beauty they will soon wear. Actually, this color change in the leaves happens to many trees. Yes, it is beautiful.

And now, we look forward with grateful hearts, to Thanksgiving time and the short, quiet days of winter, with its snowy white blanket covering the ground. Oh my, is that what fall means? Winter is around the corner. There is a poem by Stella Craft Tremble called "The Cycle" which describes our seasons.

Granaries are filled with corn in sheaves;
Down drift the brown and scarlet leaves.
The wren no longer sings the tune
He sang at lilac time in June.
Bushes are boasting snow-white plumes;
Cedars wear caps of glistening blooms ...
The sun tips southward, quite awry,
As wedges of wild geese honk by.
Bleak wintertime is near our land,
But to the ones who understand,
Whatever changes seasons bring,
The heart can have perpetual spring!

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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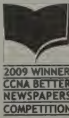


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Canada

Alberta authors kick off NLLS conference

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Delegates at Thursday's opening reception of the 17th annual Northern Lights Library System Conference, entitled "Libraries: a Place to Grow," had a special treat in store, when they heard presentations by two prolific Alberta authors.



Robert J. Adams

Robert J. Adams, who also spoke to the Grade 4 and 5 students at Elk Point Elementary School Wednesday morning and at the Elk Point Municipal Library Wednesday evening, is the author of 11 books, starting with 'The Stump Farm.'

"The log house on the cover of 'The Stump Farm' is where I grew up. That was the subject of my first four books," he noted.

Adams "did not have a dream to write books." His high school principal, he said, "told me to get a job. He said I wasn't university material." After two years working in a forestry department office, Adams

joined the RCMP. His adventures with the force in the late 1950s and early 1960s, including a stint in the Musical Ride, are chronicled in 'Horse Cop,' although he admits that even now, "I do not appreciate horses."

Stationed to Humboldt, SK, he met his future wife and got engaged, "a no-no" because of he did not have sufficient years of service to marry. "I bought my way out, got married, moved to Alberta and went to work for Fish and Wildlife." His next books, 'Fish Cop,' 'Skunks and Hound Dogs' and 'In the Shadow of the Rockies,' relate to his experiences with that department.

Adams also wrote about his travel adventures, and about becoming a grandparent. His daughter, who got his career underway when she "hounded me to write down the stories I'd been telling her all her life" after "Ralph (Premier Klein) retired me" in the 1993 downsizing of the department. "I bought a computer and started writing stories. I had so much fun I just kept writing."

His work was never turned down by any publisher that he approached, but they indicated it could be between three and five years before his books could be printed. So, he decided on self-publishing, and was advised to get 200

copies of 'The Stump Farm' printed. His wife thought this was a good number to start with, he and his daughter thought 5,000 would sell, "And our first printing was 5,200. I gave myself three years to sell them after they were printed in April 1997. We sold them all by October, so we brought out the second book, and sold 17,000 by Christmas."

His daughter also has the writing bug, and her first book, 'Who Are These People and What Have You Done With My Parents?' was also part of Adams' display at the conference.



Jim Hole

The second author, whose arrival was delayed by his busy schedule, is the son of the most celebrated author to ever grace a NLLS conference, Lt. Gov. Lois Hole. NLLS Director



Cold Lake's Intellectual Freedom Fighters won the Book Cart Competition.

Mircea Panciuk recalled her visit, noting that, "Her last public appearance was here. She and her family were such supporters of education, literacy and libraries. Her son is also a great supporter of education, literacy and libraries. He was late arriving here because he was the co-chair of a golf tournament supporting literacy. Jim Hole writes about what he does, and does what he writes about."

Hole said his background knowledge of the importance of libraries "goes back to my dad's mother and my mother. Grandma showed Mom drawers filled with

sweaters she had been given and suggested that people donate a book to the library in her name instead of buying her any more of them. Mom really advocated this as a way to support libraries."

Hole's very interesting presentation dealt with sustainable gardening. He suggested the use of rain barrels, incorporation of organic material into the soil so it will retain moisture, and declared composting "a great way to go." Water gardens fed by eavestrough downspouts, xeriscaping,

drought-tolerant plants and the use of good quality potting soil for containers were all addressed, as was the current trend "from have-to to want-to gardening."

The growing popularity of the 100-Mile Diet "has city people realizing they can grow their own produce. What our grandparents did is fashionable now. People are growing potatoes in their front yards and are proud of it." Hole listed some of the new varieties that are especially good for small-space gardening.

(Continued on Page 8)

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THE GRANDPARENTS' DAY COMMITTEE

Would like to thank the community and everyone who participated to make our day a success. Music and dancing by Homer and Liz Poiras Family, Gus Dion and daughter Karen and family, the United Church Youth Choir, Olivia Leaf, Brook Gromley and Darcy, the granddaughter of Holly and Fred Myshaniuk, sponsors of the school's grandparents project, Bumper to Bumper, Apple Drugs, Ron & Sharon Smith, Angie & Bob Baker, SR Rentals and RSDS Trucking. Cakes were donated by Elk Point Golden Loaf Bakery and Tags Bakery; Elk Point Co-op supplied the fruit tray and the Plinko game; Footprints supplied the cutlery; Pat Swedgan, Faye Smith, June Pettipas and Deanna Fakeley helped fill in with calculating games and serving cake and clean up. Thanks everyone.

THANK YOU

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Danny, Jelayne & Jarvis Szakacs

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Special thanks to my family.

Peggy Maas

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130. Coming Events

CELEBRATE fire etc's 50th Anniversary, Sat., Sept. 26. Fun for the whole family. Tours & demos. Lakeland College, Vermilion, Alberta; www.lakelandcollege.ca/fire-etc or call 780-581-2039.

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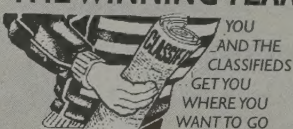
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Back to the sports beat

Hey, what's going on? I bet you thought I left the country or something. The truth is, I've been a little lazy and haven't been able to get motivated to write anything.

After the great summer we had at ball, I took some holidays, played a little golf with my new clubs that I won at the Oilmen's, worked a little at home on a fence, but now I'm ready to give her again, please e-mail me some sports news and I will gladly put it in.

Now, speaking of help, Ken Palamarek and the volunteer fireman came in and washed the arena



doug BASSETT
Review Sports

floor last night and a number of other volunteers have shown up at our work bees to give us a hand fixing the numerous little things that always need a little attention at this time of year. We really appreciate superintendent Cam Kinneberg and all the CNRL crews (about 30 all toll) who have donated the time and paint to spruce up the lobby and kitchen. Tomorrow they will be putting on the last coat, just in time, because next Monday the plant will be fired up and about two weeks from now, if there aren't any hiccups, the kids will be skating.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "I want size, and I want meanness." Do you have any scoops? Please e-mail them to sportsound007@hotmail.com

Forts visitation up for August

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The number of visitors coming through the gates at Fort George and Buckingham House was up substantially for August 2009, as compared to 2008, but overall visitation is still lower, according to a report presented at the September meeting of the Friends of the Forts.

A total of 526 visitors came to the Forts in August, up 10 per cent from last year, but that only brought the total for the season up to 1,800, with just seven days left to add to that figure before the provincial historic site closed for the season on Sept. 7. Last

year, the site had a total of 2,226 visitors.

Site supervisor Ross Stromberg attributes the drop to a decline from 15 to nine school group visits this year, the cool weather in June and last year's visit by the David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade, which brought in a large influx of visitors in May of 2008.

Gift shop revenues were up for both the month and the year despite the drop, and concession revenues were more than double for August, but marginally lower for the year.

The Forts des Prairies Jamboree was a huge success,

with 208 visitors compared to 140 last year, with substantial increases for income from the gift shop, concession and hot food sales. About 40 entertainers were on hand, including numerous new performers, and the program went smoothly, with no gaps. The date for the 2010 Jamboree has already been set for Aug. 29.

Stromberg reported that the Ambassadors program, aimed at recruiting people within the surrounding area to bring in more visitors from outside the area, "was established too late in the season" to have a large impact, but, "for a pilot project, it turned out well."

Planning ahead for next year's fair

(Continued from Page 2)

The Fair Committee is already working on some exciting changes in order to improve your fair experience, so you should start planning, too.

For those of you with kids in school, start a box or folder to collect their art and writing projects so you have them all together for next summer.

Start a folder in a drawer or on your computer for your best photos to enter in the Photography section. The

"Meet the Challenge" word for next year is "Ten". Keeping in mind that you cannot label your photo, use your imagination to find a photo that represents this theme, like: 2010, ten fingers or toes, 10th birthday, ten flowers or 10th Street. Don't forget to mount all your photos on a neutral-coloured, heavy paper or cardboard, with a one-quarter to one-inch border showing around your photo.

If you're into canning, don't forget to label your jars

with the canning date. The judges do ask that all entries be canned within the 12 months prior to the fair.

As you are crafting, sewing, knitting or crocheting projects that you plan to give as gifts, make a list of whom you are giving them to. This way, come fair time, you can borrow them back to enter.

Also, don't forget that the special theme for next year's Quilt Show is Vintage Bedroom Linens, homemade or purchased. If you have pil-

lowcases, nightgowns, bed skirts or other items that you would like to contribute to the display (which is not judged and does not have any entry fee), or if you have questions about the Quilt Show, call Verona Lea Flanders at (780) 724-2269.

And to all of you bakers out there, whenever you want to practice your recipes, I will gladly eat your baked goods and get them out of your way. (My favourites are butter tarts and brownies.)

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NLLS conference

(Continued from Page 5)

"Small spaces have forced people to become creative," he noted, illustrating his talk with a power point presentation. "Large containers are easier to maintain than small ones," he pointed out.

The final part of Hole's presentation dealt with the future relocation of Hole's Gardens and Greenhouse to a 10-acre site just east of the interpretive centre at the Lois Hole Provincial Park and six miles west of the current site. Called The

Enjoy Centre, the new facility will include a spa and restaurant among its amenities.

The following evening, after a day packed with informative sessions and, for some, an optional trip to Fort George and Buckingham House Historic Site, excitement mounted as teams made their preparations for the Third Annual Book Cart Competitions, with Panciuk in his once-a-year role as the ringmaster for this hilarious circus, this time with televised backstage interviews.

The NLLS Staff Bibliomaniacs donned superstar and banana costumes and danced and did the limbo to disco music, as they herded their book carts around the stage.

The NLLS executive's Perennial Ballerinas fluttered around the stage in filmy costumes to a classical soundtrack, with one of their number handing out wildflower seed 'bribes' to the judges and audience.

Cold Lake Library's Intellectual Freedom Fighters staunchly defended giant replicas of censored books and really put their point across, winning first place in the competition.

Panciuk said he was 'humbled' to see his staff team, who won the first two



The NLLS Board Perennial Ballerinas "are a good working group when it's time to work, and a good play group when it's time to play," according to chair Larry Tiedemann, and accepted their third place with good-natured grace.



The Northern Lights staff donned zany costumes for their second place number

competitions, reduced to second place, but warned the competition, "watch out next year!"

The Board Ballerinas placed third, but spokesman Joseph Trapani of

Morinville conceded that, "what counts is having fun."

Elk Point Skating Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
at A.G. Ross Arena - Horizon Room



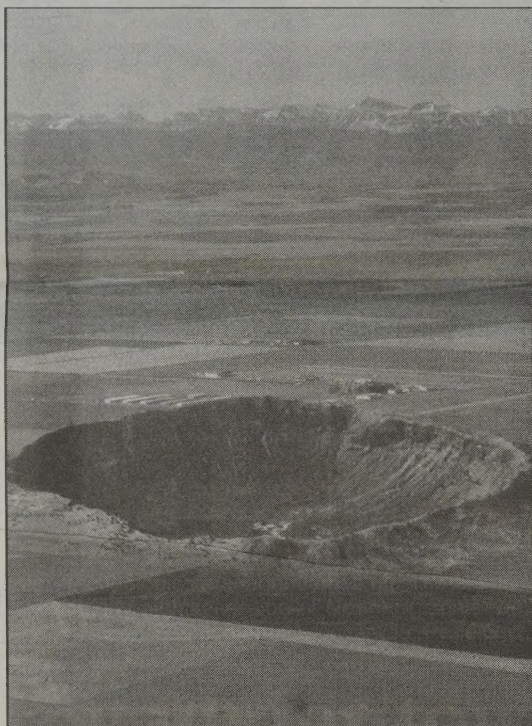
LAST CHANCE

EPMH needs to fill the MIDGET BOYS TEAM

Players interested please attend a
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Thursday, September 24, 2009
7:00 p.m. in the A.G. Ross Arena

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